

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2006

Chairman Ralph Regula
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,
Education and Related Agencies
U.S. House Appropriations Committee
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member David Obey
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,
Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Regula and Ranking Member Obey:

We are writing to express our concern regarding the proposed cut of the AmeriCorps*National Civilian Community Corp (NCCC) in the President's FY 07 Budget. As you are aware, there are five campuses in the United States that serves as both a wonderful place for young people to get involved with their community, and necessary aid for hundreds of communities across the country. It is with that in mind that we respectfully request that the Appropriations Committee include \$25.5 million in the Labor-HHS Appropriations Bill to continue funding this program.

Since 1994, the AmeriCorps*NCCC team members have played an important role by developing leaders and strengthening communities through team-based national and community service in the areas of disaster relief, education, unmet human needs, environment, and public safety. They can be found working in our schools, our non-profit organizations and on community projects throughout our nation.

AmeriCorps*NCCC members are 100% disaster trained and available for immediate deployment in the event of a natural disaster anywhere within the United States. Trained in CPR, first aid, disaster response, and firefighting, NCCC teams have responded to every national disaster since the program was established. Since September 2005, all NCCC members, over 1,400, have been deployed to the Gulf Coast Region to support hurricane relief and recovery. They have provided more than 250,000 service hours, valued at \$3.8 million, on more than 50 different projects. Project sponsors have included FEMA, American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, the city of Waveland, MS, St. Bernard's Parish, LA, and others. Finally, NCCC has continued to support long term recovery efforts in the region and currently has 300 NCCC members deployed on 24 projects throughout the Gulf Coast and approximately 900 members will be deployed to the Gulf Coast Region in early March to coordinate the work of spring break volunteers.

The President's proposed budget eliminates the program by providing only \$5 million to close the five regional campuses, which include campuses in: Sacramento, CA; Denver, CO; Charleston, SC; Washington, DC; and Perry Point, MD. The campuses support over 100 programs throughout the country. If these cuts are allowed to go through they will have a profound affect on our schools and communities.

Eliminating the Americorp*NCCC sends precisely the wrong message to those who want to build a better tomorrow for those in need. We urge you to appropriate funding for this vital program. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress



WAYNE GILCHREST
Member of Congress



DIANA DEGETTE
Member of Congress



ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress



ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress



JAMES LANGEVIN
Member of Congress



ED CASE
Member of Congress



DIANE WATSON
Member of Congress



WM. LACY CLAY
Member of Congress



LLOYD DOGGETT
Member of Congress



ROBERT WEXLER
Member of Congress



MIKE ROSS
Member of Congress



ALLYSON SCHWARTZ
Member of Congress



STEPHEN LYNCH
Member of Congress



JAMES MCGOVERN
Member of Congress



JIM DAVIS
Member of Congress



SHELLEY BERKLEY
Member of Congress



BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress



LINDA SÁNCHEZ
Member of Congress



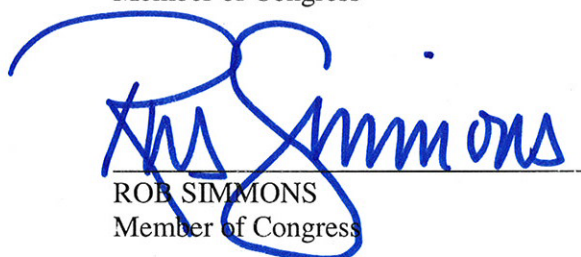
JOHN LARSON
Member of Congress



TAMMY BALDWIN
Member of Congress



RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress



ROB SIMMONS
Member of Congress



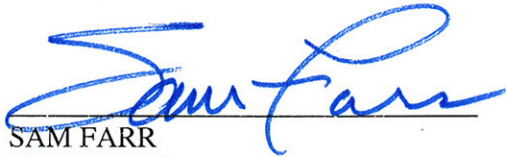
BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress



ELLEN TAUSCHER
Member of Congress



ANTHONY WEINER
Member of Congress



SAM FARR
Member of Congress



JIM McDERMOTT
Member of Congress



RAÚL GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



TOM ALLEN
Member of Congress



MICHAEL CAPUANO
Member of Congress



CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
Member of Congress



MIKE HONDA
Member of Congress



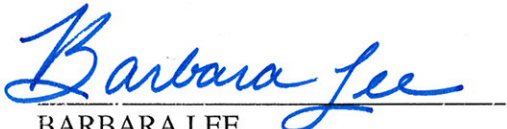
WILLIAM DELAHUNT
Member of Congress



DENNIS MOORE
Member of Congress



BOB ETHERIDGE
Member of Congress




BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



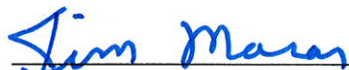
LOUISE SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress



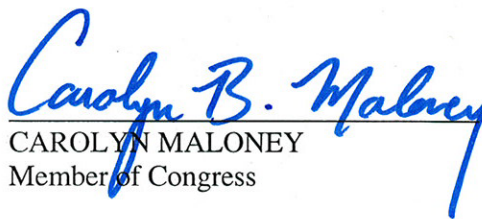
ELIOT ENGEL
Member of Congress



GEORGE MILLER
Member of Congress



JAMES MORAN
Member of Congress



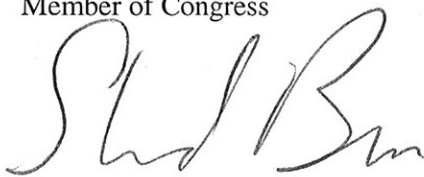
CAROLYN MALONEY
Member of Congress



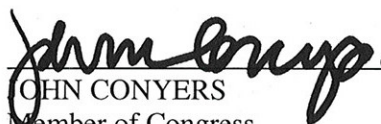
GENE TAYLOR
Member of Congress



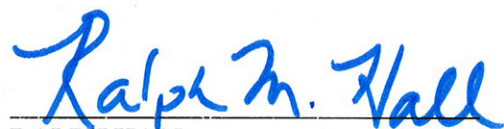
JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress



SHERROD BROWN
Member of Congress



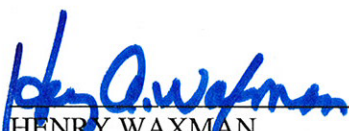
JOHN CONYERS
Member of Congress



RALPH HALL
Member of Congress



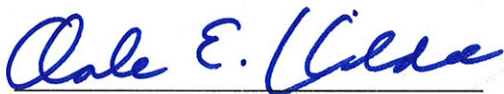
DARLENE HOOLEY
Member of Congress



HENRY WAXMAN
Member of Congress



MICHAEL MCNULTY
Member of Congress



DALE KILDEE
Member of Congress



MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress